

From: McMillin, Stella@Wildlife
To: [Jenny Chu](#); [Palmer-Townsend, Marilyn@CDPR](#); [Kratville, David@CDFA](#); [Miller, Robert](#)
Subject: Loss report for squirrel in Los Angeles County
Date: Friday, July 06, 2018 2:04:46 PM
Attachments: [P3282.pdf](#)

Good morning,

I have attached a loss report for a squirrel in Los Angeles County. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you.

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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
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WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY
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Lab Number P-3282
Necropsy Z18-0158
CAHFS Number D1716563

Date of loss: February 28, 2018
Sample: Western gray squirrel
Sciurus griseus
Protection status: No special status

To: Jenny Chu
Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner's Office

Report Date: July 5, 2018

Remarks

Probable anticoagulant rodenticide intoxication western gray squirrel.

Background

On November 15, 2017, CDFW Region 5 staff was contacted by a resident of Pacific Club Condominiums in Playa Del Rey about squirrel mortalities in the area. This complex is near Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve owned and managed by the state of California. The original complainant was unable to be reached because the wrong phone number was recorded. However, a maintenance worker for the complex also reported that he had found five dead squirrels in the previous week. The original complainant called back the following month to report that he was still finding dead squirrels on a regular basis, at which time the complaint was referred to the CDFW Wildlife Investigations Laboratory (WIL). At that time, no fresh carcasses were available to test. In late February, a fresh squirrel carcass was collected and submitted to the WIL to determine cause of death. The complainant was told by the condominium management company that the rodenticide that was being used was Maki Paraffin Blocks Bromadiolone .005%. The squirrel was submitted to the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory (CAHFS) in Davis to determine cause of death.

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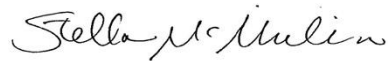
RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

A necropsy was performed at CAHFS on March 15, 2018. The squirrel was an adult in good nutritional condition with moderate postmortem decomposition. No signs of infectious disease were found and there was no evidence of hemorrhage grossly or histologically. The adipose tissue contained no detected levels of bromethalin metabolite. The liver contained 0.18 ppm bromadiolone. Bromadiolone is a California restricted material used for control of commensal rodents. Signs of intoxication have been found when anticoagulant rodenticide liver concentrations are above 0.1-0.2 ppm (Thomas et al 2011). While bromadiolone intoxication was not confirmed as the cause of death, a potentially toxic concentration of the material was found in the squirrel's liver. The Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner's Office was notified about the non-target exposure.

References:

Thomas, P.J., P. Mineau, R.F. Shore, L. Champoux, P.A. Martin, L.K. Wilson, G. Fitzgerald, and J.E. Elliot. 2011. Second generation anticoagulant rodenticides in predatory birds: Probabilistic characterization of toxic liver concentrations and implications for predatory bird populations in Canada. Environment International 37: 914-920.

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY



**Stella McMillin, Senior Environmental Scientist
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Approved



**Dr. Deana Clifford, Senior Wildlife Veterinarian,
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory**

**Cc: Rebecca Barboza,
CDFW Region 5**

**Marilyn Palmer-Townsend,
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**David Kratville,
CDFA**

**Robert Miller,
USEPA**